

ER 73-1398/A

30 MAR 1973

The Honorable J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Committee on Foreign Relations
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Fulbright:

Thank you for your letter of March 16, 1973. I am glad this Agency was of assistance to your Committee.

We have initiated a modest pilot program to declassify OSS documents. Where possible, I am also interested in making available historical documentation in original form, or summarized if necessary to protect intelligence sources and methods. This matter will receive my attention in the future, and I will be certain to forward any material of this nature to your Committee.

Sincerely,

/s/ James R. Schlesinger

James R. Schlesinger
Director

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

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March 16, 1973

The Honorable James R. Schlesinger
Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Schlesinger:

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I have enclosed a copy of a Foreign Relations Committee print of hearings held in May 1972 on the "Causes, Origins, and Lessons of the Vietnam War." This print contains an appendix of material relating to OSS and SSU activity in French Indochina during and immediately after World War II. The Committee obtained this appendix material in December with the assistance of the Central Intelligence Agency, particularly that of Messrs. [REDACTED] I appreciate very much the Agency's cooperation.

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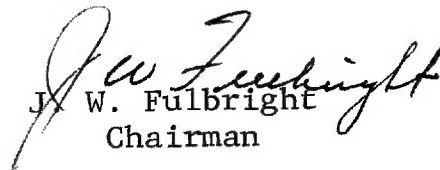
OSS and SSU documents are important to students of American foreign policy. If our country is to assess intelligently American involvement in world affairs over the last thirty years, more will need to be known about the intelligence community's impact on our foreign policy. I therefore wonder if any thought has been given to the systematic declassification of similar documents of the wartime and early postwar period. I realize that this would not be a simple task, but I think the effort would be worthwhile.

The Agency also, I assume, writes its own history for internal use. Perhaps some of the volumes relating to this period might now be declassified for public use.

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I would be very interested in any comments you might have on this proposal and, of course, in any action the Agency might take in making such documents available to the public.

Sincerely yours,


J. W. Fulbright
Chairman

Enclosure